

Weekly Column for November 18, 2004

Today there will be a very exciting opening in downtown Troy, as Market Block Books officially opens as the anchor of the Market Block Building.

For those of you who don't know, Susan Novotny, the same owner of the Book House in Stuyvesant Plaza, owns Market Block Books. The grand opening of her new store in Troy represents a belief that our City is indeed headed in the right direction. It also offers the Market Block Project, being developed by John Hedley, the anchor store to show other retailers, that it is okay to take a shot in the dark. We are becoming the destination we all know Troy can and should be.

I encourage everyone who reads this column to come down to the store and welcome our new neighbor. And tell all of your friends as well. When the Market Block Project comes to fruition, the renaissance in downtown will happen that much quicker. The building is centrally located on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and River Street near Fulton Street for those of you who don't know, and this is just one of many projects that we are excited about.

Other big news this week is that Jeffrey and Deane Pfeil, who I wrote about last week concerning their condominium project in Lansingburgh, have purchased one of the downtown's most recognizable structures- the Stanley Building. The Pfeil's plan to put retail on the first floor of the building, an excellent choice, and have a mixture of office space and apartments on the above floors. While still early in the planning stages, these are developers with a proven record of success, and nothing makes me smile more than people with big plans who keep their word and make things happen.

Between the Market Block and Stanley's, continued success on River Street, and now a burgeoning Third Street, our downtown is literally ready to burst at the seams, and that is wonderful for everyone, including all residents of Troy, from Lansingburgh to South Troy. If you have not been to downtown Troy in while, make it point to stop down soon, particularly on December 5<sup>th</sup>, for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Victorian Stroll, which I have agreed to dress in Victorian garb for. As if you needed another reason to stop by.

One final note is that Thanksgiving is one week from today, which means the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Turkey Trot is one week from day. Registrations are still being accepted and should be brought directly to the Knickerbacker Ice Rink. If you have any questions, please call the Gobbler Line at 235-8993.

Have a great week. If you have any questions, comments, concerns or complaints please do not hesitate to call me, or e-mail me at the Mayor's Office. Be forewarned though, I can do nothing about the cold weather we're about to *enjoy*.